



**TESTIMONY
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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
CONNECTICUT HEATING & COOLING CONTRACTORS (CHCC)
LABOR COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 10, 2011**

HB-5460 – AN ACT CONCERNING CAPTIVE AUDIENCE MEETINGS

The Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC) **opposes HB-5460, An Act Concerning Captive Audience Meetings.**

CHCC opposes this bill because it is overly broad and would unreasonably restrict employers' ability to disseminate important information to employees. We are particularly concerned that this legislation would bar legitimate and important communication from employer to employee, even when it is in the employees' best interest to be made aware of the employer's concern.

Recognizing that employers have a legitimate need to discuss certain issues in the workplace with employees, the National Labor Relations Act permits employers to require employees to attend certain meetings to discuss various issues affecting the workplace. In fact, a law prohibiting similar workplace communications which was adopted in Wisconsin was recently struck down by the District Court because the law was in conflict with the NLRA and violated employers' free speech rights.

HB-5460 will further erode Connecticut's economy by making it more difficult to operate in Connecticut. The economic recession has taken a toll on all industry sectors across the state, including our industry.

Therefore, we respectfully urge the committee to **REJECT HB-5460.**

For more information, please contact Jennifer Jennings, Executive Director, CHCC, 2842 Main Street, #259, Glastonbury, CT 06033 or jjennings@chcca.net, Tel., 860-533-1163.

The Connecticut Heating & Cooling Contractors Association (CHCC) is a not for profit trade association whose objectives are to strengthen and further trade relations, attract, educate and train necessary manpower, represent members at all levels of government and review and establish quality standards and procedures. The association represents over 125 Heating & Cooling Companies in Connecticut.